

Selectboard Minutes  
December 17, 2024

Present: Jenn Jones, Chair  
Andy Artimovich  
Jon Morgan  
Paul Kleinmann  
Letty Bedard

At 6:00pm, Jones called the meeting to order.

The Board signed the payroll and accounts payable summary register.

Bedard motioned, seconded by Kleinman to accept the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes from December 10<sup>th</sup>, non-public minutes of December 10<sup>th</sup>, and the following building permits:

- Tom Soterakopoulos, 5 Tanya Lane, Electrical
- Langdon Construction, LLC, 2 Stone Creek, Electrical
- Langdon Construction, LLC, 8 Stone Creek, Electrical
- Croteau Family Living Trust, 99 Prescott Road, Electrical
- Aaron & Emily Crouch, 8 Haley Circle, Plan Examination
- Mary, Peter & Robert Howard, 147 Pickpocket Road, Plan Examination

All were in favor, motion carried.

At 6:02pm, Jones opened the meeting up to public comment.

Elizabeth Faria, South Road, had questions regarding last week's payroll.

Rebecca Dunham, Block Drive, discussed the Fuller contract.

Jones closed public comment at 6:03pm.

Officer In Charge, Lieutenant Doty, was present to discuss replacing the transmission in the PD's Denali for \$7,231.22. After some discussion Bedard motioned to allow the expenditure of \$7231.22 from the "cruiser" line of the budget with the understanding that that line will be over budget and that will not reflect poorly on the Lieutenant or his department. Motion seconded by Artimovich, all were in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed the hiring of seasonal plow drivers. Artimovich motioned to move forward with the applicants whose certified driving records were received, seconded by Bedard, all were in favor, motion carried.

There is approximately \$87,258.13 of ARPA funds left at this time. After some discussion Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to approve splitting the funds and applying \$43,629 to the recycling line in 2025 and the same in 2026. All were in favor, motion carried.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to reopen the recycling budget. All were in favor, motion carried.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to reduce the recycling line from \$143,050 to \$99,421, all were in favor,

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motion carried.

The Board discussed a one-time special exception payout for 41.3 hours to Benedix. Motion by Morgan to approve the one-time payout, seconded by Bedard, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed Kip Kaiser's retirement letter. Kaiser plans to reduce his hours to around 20, until the Town can find a replacement. The Board discussed Kaiser's duties, he is currently the Building Inspector, Code Enforcement and Building Maintenance typically falls to him, and whether this position should be reconfigured. Jones also asked the Board to consider if that position could use some administrative help. Kaiser has requested iPads or tablets to take out on site, they have been ordered. Kaiser would like the ability to work some remote hours. Morgan motioned to allow Kaiser to reduce his hours to around 20, allow for remote flexibility and to post the job opening. Artimovich seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

Bedard motioned to approve the Board signing the contract, seconded by Artimovich, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board signed the Fuller contract, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, notarized the contract. Kleinman noted that the contract came in under budget at \$241,000. The contract has been reviewed by Town Counsel.

The Board reviewed the Insurance Budget. There was a 17% increase in the property and liability insurance and a 12% increase in worker's compensation insurance. This budget was in front of the Budget Committee last night and was approved 5-0 at \$186,111. Artimovich motioned to approve the Benefits Budget. Bedard seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Artimovich motioned to reopen the Insurance Benefits Budget, seconded by Bedard, all in favor, motion carried.

Jones explained that in the past the Health Insurance line reflected the total cost and did not subtract employee contributions. The Board utilized this method, and the budget increased 2.48%. These changes will be carried forward under the new Town Administrator. Artimovich motioned to approve the Insurance Benefits Budget at \$582,725, seconded by Morgan. All in favor, motion carried.

The Budget Committee approved the Town Administrator budget. The only budget not approved by both Selectboard and Budget Committee currently is the Government Buildings Budget.

The current proposed budget is a 12% increase over last year. The Board would like to get the increase down to less than 10%. The Board will discuss budget cut talks at their January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting.

The Regional Association's Committee has met and would like to reduce their line in the Welfare Budget from \$18,000 to \$13,000. Bedard motioned, seconded by Artimovich to reopen the Welfare Budget, all in favor, motion carried. Bedard motioned, seconded by Artimovich to reduce the Regional Associations line in the Welfare budget from \$18,000 to \$13,000, reducing the Welfare Budget to \$20,407. All were in favor, motion carried.

Morgan stated that there is an Economic Development Committee meeting this Thursday.

Kleinman stated that the Open Space Committee has identified a potential parcel.

At 6:49pm, Bedard motioned, seconded by Morgan to go into nonpublic for hiring and legal. Artimovich – aye, Kleinman – aye, Bedard – aye, Morgan - aye, Jones – aye. Motion passed.

Public session reconvened at 9:18 PM.

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Bedard made a motion to seal the non-public minutes, seconded by Artimovich. Roll call vote: Artimovich – aye, Kleinman – aye, Bedard – aye, Morgan - aye, Jones – aye. Motion passed.

Bedard made a motion to adjourn at 9:19 PM, seconded by Morgan. All were in favor. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Benedix